

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claim 41 as follows:

41. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second predetermined substance sites are established by the predetermined coding of the substance carrier.

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2002. Claims 1-11, 28, 39, 40, and 41 are pending. A copy of the pending claims is enclosed for your convenience.

As stated in the previous response to Office Action dated October 19, 2001, Applicant notes that claim 26 properly belongs in Group II and requests that the Examiner acknowledge such adjustment.

Claim 41 has been added to further define the invention. This claim depends from claim 1. No new matter is introduced with this amendment.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 26, 28, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Claeys et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,853,521. However, in Claeys, there is no teaching or suggestion of correlating the site (e.g., tray) with the carrier (e.g., syringe) or the substance in the carrier. The Examiner refers to col. 2 lines 61-63 which describes that the syringes may be placed in a specific order relative to each other. In the present invention, both the carrier and the site or sites must be coded such that each specific carrier relates to a specific site according to their respective codes which are associated with the substance in the

carrier. For example, Claim 1 requires predetermined coded substance sites and a predetermined coded substance carrier.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Claeys in view of an article titled "Needle and Syringe Disposal" by the University of Maryland. The Examiner stated that the labeled container in the article teaches the second coded substance site. However, the labels "SHARPS" or "BIOHAZARDS" as disclosed in the article are not codes that associate the site with a specific carrier or substance in the carrier. In the present invention, regardless of whether there is one site or two sites, the coding clearly provides a connection between the site(s) and the carrier or substance in the carrier. The article does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the claimed invention that are not disclosed in Claeys, such as the predetermined coded substance site and predetermined coded substance carrier.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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